

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

March 10, 2018

Message from the President

The January Sectional was another successful tournament for the Rhode Island Bridge Association. We had a total of 58 tables on Saturday and 44 tables for the Sunday Swiss. Our net profit was \$1736. We remain healthy and vibrant as a result of the Board members who volunteer their time and talents.

Come out and enjoy bridge at its finest. Attend our Sectional this month for fun times, great competition, and wonderful hospitality. You cannot ask for more.

Paula Najarian

70%+ Games

70%+ Open Pairs games December 2017 - March 2018, at least 5 tables, at least 20 boards in play

Bridge Club of Northern RI

- Marguerite Gousie & Lois DeBlois, 70.41%, Dec. 11
- John Lombardo & David Crossley, 70.17%, Jan. 8
- Walter Morgan & William Morgan, 71.80%, Jan. 29

Bridge Place

- John Maselli & Alexander Levitsky, 71.21%, Dec. 19
- Tina Jameson & Nancy Rosenbaum, 72.6%, Feb. 6

Narragansett Bridge Club

- Matthew Byrne & Terry Byrne, 71.03%, December 18
- Nancy Rosenbaum & William Niemi, 70.00%, Feb 28

Warwick Bridge Club

- Alex Levitsky & John Maselli, 70.63%, Dec. 23



Players who braved the stormy weather on January 30 were rewarded with a festive celebration of Dorothy Barry's 100th birthday – and cake, too!

Pictured with Dorothy is her son Phillip and daughter-in-law Roberta and Harry Glaser.



Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Spring Sectional

March 24 & 25, 2018

Win EXTRA Silver Points on Saturday!

**Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue
(Route 6A), Johnston, RI**

***www.RIBridge.org ... Please check this website for
up to the minute details and in case of inclement weather***

Guaranteed Winning Table

We are renowned for the yummy food that is served at our tournaments. Everyone wins at the refreshment table. Be part of the team! Bring something you've made to the March tournament -- bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

Membership Report

Greetings! The Rhode Island Bridge Association extends a hearty welcome to all new members and to all members who recently transferred into our unit! Be sure to check your e-mail for regular mailings from RIBA. The clubs in RI are known for friendliness and sociability and we are confident that you will find bridge games relaxing and mentally stimulating.

New Members

Paul Thompson North Kingstown
Gary Gallucci Johnston
Peter Stevens Wakefield
Total Members: 473 (as of 3/1/18)

RIBA Officers

President: Paula Najarian
Vice President: Marshall Williams
Secretary: Linda Ahrens
Treasurer: Joseph Brouillard

Board of Directors

Barbara Barrette Barton Buffington
Charleen Christy Lois DeBlois
Maureen Fahey Julie Goulet
Meg Gousie Diane Lambert
Bea Martini Carol McCullough
Arthur Norman David Prentiss
Chris Soares Stanley Williams

In Memoriam

Cathleen Speer, Portsmouth

Upcoming Events

March 24-25 Sectional, Johnston, RI
April 13-15 Sturbridge, MA:
Rainbow Weekend for 299'ers
April 14-15 Sturbridge, MA:
GNT District 25
April 25-29 Regional, Falmouth, MA
June 9-10 Sectional, Johnston, RI
June 19-24 Regional, Nashua, NH
Aug 28-Sept 2 Regional, Warwick, RI
Nov 7-11 Regional, Mansfield, MA
July 20-30 NABC - Providence, RI (2021)

Newest Rank Achievements

Congratulations to the following members on their rank advancements!

Ruby Life Master (1500 MP's)

Robert Potvin, Providence

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Linda Ahrens, West Yarmouth, MA

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Lillian Richards, Warwick

Life Master*

Barry Gilbert, Lincoln

Lillian Richards, Warwick

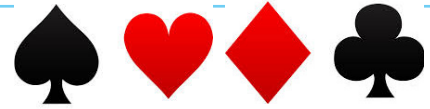
Advanced NABC Master (300 MP's)

Karen Kupersmith, Warwick

NABC Master (200 MP's)

Dennis Martin, Pawtucket

Rosemary Cournoyer, Rumford



Regional Masters (100 MP's)

Leon Lesinski, Portsmouth

Sectional Masters (50 MP's)

Susan Moubayed, Providence

Barbara Rhian, Cranston

Junior Master (5 MP's)

Nancy Brickley, Newport

Stephanie Chamberlain, Providence

Normand Dubois, Warwick

Geneva Quigley, Warren

Christine Bendoraitis, Narragansett

Maurice Gauthier, Tiverton

William Rusch, Middletown

(as of 3/1/2018)

*300 MP's if a player joined ACBL before 1/1/2010; 500 if a player joined after that

Helpful Hints

- Even though the STOP card is no longer in use, you should still pause approximately 10 seconds in the direct seat over the skip bid.
- Dummy should NOT play or touch a card until declarer has called for the card.
- To save time, make your opening lead before you write down the contract.
- If an opponent has made an insufficient bid or has made a bid out of turn, the Director should be called since rules have changed.

It's a Partner Auction



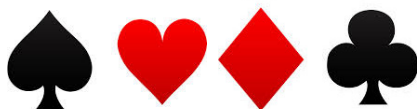
Current Bid
\$325

Need a fabulous partner for the RI Spring Sectional?
RI's own Susan Miguel is auctioning herself off to benefit the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation.

If you'd like a scintillating partner for the pair game on Saturday 3/24 email your bid to suemiguel@cox.net.

It'll be great fun and you might learn a trick or two! Not to mention, she's buying the entry and lunch.

Bidder Names Confidential ~ Live Bid Updates at www.vikingbridgeclub.com



Your submissions to and ideas for bRidge Bits are welcome. Send to Carol McCullough at christmascarol999@yahoo.com. Upcoming bRidge Bits planned for June 10, 2018.

BALANCING BIDS Part Two

In the December BridgeBits we covered some of the more basic balancing auctions including balancing NT's and the balancing jump shift. Last time, I suggested replacing a strong balancing 2NT (19-21), with a 2-suited alternative.

Bear in mind that after a 1C or 1D opener comes around to you in the balancing (4th) seat, a cue bid of the openers suit shows 5-5 in the majors. This is a Michaels cue bid. Your hand can be strong - up to 16 HCP - and you are forcing partner to choose. When Michaels is used in direct seat it shows the same holding although some partnerships promise only 4 spades. If you have this agreement you can also use this treatment in the balancing seat, but more about that later.

With (AJxxx, KQxxx, xx, x) you would make a Michaels bid in the balancing seat. You would pass any two-level response and let partner decide to compete to the THREE level if the opponents persist. You would never raise to 3 on your own - you have shown your hand! With (AQJxx, KQJxx, xx, x) you certainly would consider competing to the three level, but would not raise to three over partners 2 level response if the opponents pass.

When the auction goes (1C/1D) - P - P - 2NT, balancer likewise shows a two-suiter and most play this as two lowest unbid suits. Responder still adjusts his bids subtracting a King (refer to balancing "rules" discussed in the last BridgeBits). Partner bids the suit for which he has "tolerance." If he has extra values then he can make a jump or cue bid with an even better hand.

With the auction 1C - P - P - (?) 2NT shows diamonds and hearts. You are expected to bid your best fit. This is almost written in stone. There is virtually no holding that you may have in spades that would permit you to bid that suit unless you fell asleep with Q J 10 5 4 3 2 and forgot to make a weak jump shift in second seat. Even then, if your hand were Q J 10 5 4 3 2, 5 2, 5 4 2, 9 you have a clear 3D bid and you should be happy to play in the 5-3 fit. Partner could have two spades but he may not. What you have is a third diamond and a certain ruff to help set up his hearts. Playing in spades you can do neither.

With (Qxxx, Axx, 10xx, Kxx) you can bid either red suit but should consider 3D since a diamond ruff is much more likely to occur than a heart ruff. It's a close decision but one you should consider. In terms of points, you value the hand at 6 points (you did remember to subtract a King). If partner bids 3H he is showing a very good hand - bid 4.

Now, the rest of this article is for those who only guarantee 4 spades with a Michaels cue bid. I know there are quite a few who do. However, I start with a caveat that this should only be considered by experienced partnerships.

I suggest making your balancing 2NT promise 5-5 in any of the unbid suits, including the majors. Michaels is still the same for you, but now over a Major opening your balancing 2NT guarantees 5-5 or better. You give up a level of bidding so you imply a better hand. With a weaker 5-5 in the majors it

is best to simply bid Michaels. For example, over 1H - P - P it is better to bid 2H holding Q 10 9 4 2, 3 2, A Q J 3 2, 7, giving partner the chance to bid 2S. With K Q 10 3 2, 3 2, A K J 3 2, 8 you can bid 2NT. Exchange the singleton club for the Ace in the latter example and you should start with a double. If you don't it will be impossible to invite game after partner's likely bid of 3 of a minor. When you have both minors the auction is standard. This alternate treatment has significant advantages and one disadvantage when you give up a level of bidding. Here judgement prevails and you must have better values.

If you have any questions or suggestions please email them to: jmmaselli@verizon.net

submitted by Jack Maselli

First Place Winners

January Sectional

Open Pairs: Joe Brouillard & Linda Ahrens (B)

299er Pairs: Beverly Cohen & Stanley Cohen (B,C)

Swiss Teams Bracket (A/X): Gregory Klinker, Steven Myerson, Eileen English & Kyle Barrett (X)

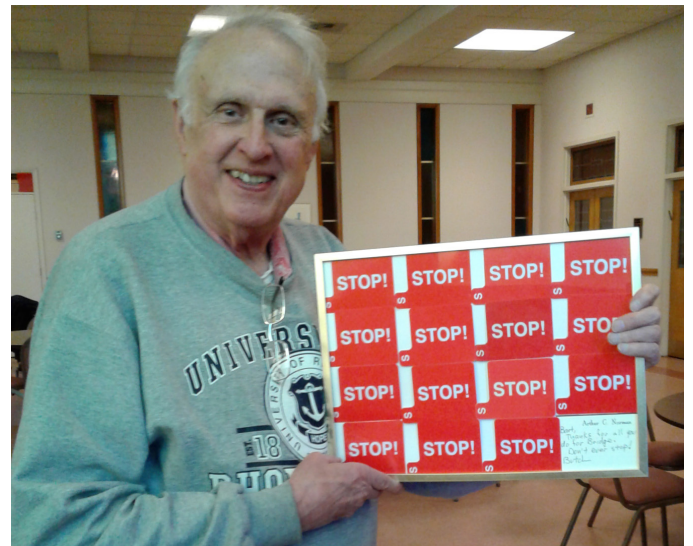
Join the fun and experience the great competition at the next Rhode Island Sectional, March 24 & 25. Just think, you could have your name highlighted in the next issue of bRIdgebits.

Marital Bliss

On their wedding night a couple arrive at their hotel room and the phone rings. The husband answers and talks with his friend about a bride hand. The conversation continues for hours as the friend tells how he went down in six spades.

When it finally ends, the distraught wife is in tears and says, "How can he be so inconsiderate? That was terrible!"

"You're right, honey. All he had to do was take a finesse."



A "Never Stop" Reward

Butch Norman gathered obsolete STOP cards from Barton Buffington and created a one of a kind award for him. The inscription: "Thanks for all you do for Bridge. Don't ever stop."